

Remarks

This paper is responsive to the Advisory Action dated September 5, 2002. In the action, the Examiner maintained the obviousness rejection of claims 22 and 23 over Omarini (U.S. Patent No. 5,404,798) in light of Lang (U.S. Patent No. 5,039,535). Only claims 22 and 23 are pending.

Claim 22 has been amended to clarify that "it" refers to the portion of the pizza and also to clarify that the upper and lower housings extend over and under respectively only a portion of the food support member. Neither the Omarini reference nor the Lang reference teach or suggest this limitation. In both references the lower housings are at least as large as the food support member. By teaching at least one housing that covers the entire food support member, these prior art devices fail to achieve significant advantages of the present invention such as conservation of storage and/or counter-top space, improved access to the pizza during the cooking process, and easy removal of the pizza and food support member from the cooker. Neither reference teaches or shows a method of cooking a pizza without the necessity for an appliance as large as the pizza itself.

Furthermore, there is no suggestion in either reference to cook a pizza by applying heat to only a portion of the pizza at a time as each portion rotates through the heating chamber. The Examiner references FIG. 7 of the Lang device which shows side cooking element 60. The specification of Lang explicitly teaches that the side cooking element operates "while the center of the pizza is cooked by the top and bottom elements." See col. 6, line 62 - col. 7, line 5. It is clear, then, that heat is constantly delivered to the entire pizza as the entire pizza rests within the heating chamber of the Lang device, not just a portion. Therefore, Lang does not teach or suggest applying heat to only a portion of the pizza at a time as that portion rotates through the heating chamber as recited in claim 22.

For at least these reasons claims 22 and 23 are patentable over the Omarini and Lang references.

In light of the above amendment and remarks, Applicants assert that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same. Reexamination and reconsideration


are respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issue, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number noted.



Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

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Samuel A. Hamer
Reg. No. 46,754

S/N 09/655,166

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claim 22 has been amended as follows:

22. (Twice Amended) A method for cooking a pizza comprising the steps of:
placing a pizza on a generally circular, rotatable food support member having a central axis of rotation wherein the food support member is adapted to be disposed in a substantially horizontal orientation and the pizza is positioned over the axis of rotation of the food support member; and

rotating the pizza contained on the food support member multiple times through a heating chamber defined by upper and lower housings, the upper and lower housings [covering] extending over and under respectively only a portion of the food support member such that heating members in the housings apply heat to only a portion of the pizza as [it] the portion of the pizza rotates through the heating chamber to cook the pizza.